(e) Government has extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks within the provisions of the Constitution.

Talks with Naga rebels

1624. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Kohima in October last held talks with various groups of Naga rebels;

(b) if so, the names of the leaders and the specific Naga factions which they represent, who took part in the deliberations; and

(c) whether any specific issues were discussed during the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Observations of Director, CBI at the Interpol General Assembly

1625. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by Director, CBI, in Interpol General Assembly, that corrosive activities of international criminals in the Post-Cold War year threaten all regions and nations alike and that technological advancement and globalization coupled with availability of financial and legal expertise have enabled organized crime groups to diversity their activities; and

(b) if so, in this scenario, whether Government are adequately equipped in apprehending the criminals, investigating the crimes and ultimately securing deterrent punishment to them and what is the conviction rate of such criminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation, Shri P.C. Sharma, the then Director, CBI

presented a paper on 'International Cooperation in fight against economic offences' in the 72nd General Assembly of Interpol at Benidorm (Spain). During his speech, he *inter alia* stated that the corrosive activities of international criminals in the post cold war era no longer threaten particular countries or regions. They threaten all the nations. Organised economic crime is not only a law enforcement problem, it is a formidable and increasing threat to international security. Legal expertise is effectively used by international criminals to protect themselves from investigations and prosecutions.

'Police' and Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crimes is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the criminal justice system. The conviction rate of such criminals is not maintained separately.

Financial assistance to States

1626. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of financial assistance/loan sanctioned and the amount released by the Union Government for drought and flood relief during the current year 2003-04; and

(b) the source and utilisation status of amount released for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) During the current financial year (2003-04), drought like situation has been reported by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Sixteen States reported floods of varying magnitude during the South-West Monsoon period-2003. Under the existing scheme for relief expenditure based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the State Governments are required to undertake response and relief measures out of the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to which the Central Government contributes 75%. In case of calamities of severe nature,